

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:248

ANSWERED ON:02.03.2005

UNDP REPORT

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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the recent report of UNDP on Human Development, India ranks lowest among the nations of the World in the Human Development Index;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the strategy being contemplated by the Government to bring the country at the World level in the Human Development Index?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN)

(a)&(b): As per the Human Development Report , 2004, India ranks 127 in the Human Development Index out of 177 countries.

(c): Human Development Index comprises of three indicators relating to Education, Health and Level of Living. In order to improve literacy and universal enrolment, investment in education has been increased substantially both for the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan and for universal coverage under the mid-day meal scheme in the current year. Similarly, in the health sector, there has been step up in investment with a new thrust on rural health. In order to improve the level of living of the people, economic growth with social justice is envisaged in the planning process. The emphasis is on agriculture development and on labour- intensive sectors, which would generate greater employment in the growth process. In addition, there are specially targeted programme for the poor and disadvantaged groups. Improving delivery and governance are also receiving attention of the Government.